

### **REMARKS**

After the foregoing amendment, claims 3-5, 8, 9, 13, 15-18 and 20-25 as amended, are pending in the application. Claims 3-5, 8, 9, 13 and 15 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1-2, 6-7, 10-12, 14 and 19 have been canceled. Claims 21-25 are new. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added to the application by the Amendment.

### **Rejection - 35 U.S.C. § 102**

The Examiner rejected claims 15-17, 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,282,565 (Shaw et al). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

The claimed invention describes a method for: (1) uploading an instruction from a client computer to an e-mail server for activating an annunciator to provide an alert when one or more e-mail messages stored in a user's mailbox in the e-mail server meet a predetermined criteria, and (2) activating the annunciator to provide the alert when an e-mail message meeting the predetermined criteria is received by the server. Advantageously, the user may choose to connect to the e-mail server for downloading e-mail messages from the server, only when alerted by the e-mail server that certain types of messages, selected by the user, have been received by the server.

Applicant has amended independent claim 15 to recite "entering an instruction for activating an annunciator, into the configuration page." The amendment is supported at paragraph 38 starting at page 11 of the application.

One skilled in the art would understand that an annunciator is "one that annunciates", i.e. announces. (See for example, Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary, page 88). While Shaw et al. lists at cols. 5-6, a large number of actions that may be entered by a user and invoked by the rule processor, Shaw et al. does not teach or suggest an annunciator action among the actions which may be entered by a user or invoked by the rule processor.

Applicant submits that Shaw et al. does not anticipate amended claim 15. Accordingly Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the §102 rejection of claim 15.

Further, it is respectfully submitted that since claim 15 has been shown to be allowable, claims 16-17 and 20 dependent on claim 15 are allowable, at least by their

dependency. Accordingly, for all the above reasons, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 102 rejection of claims 16-17 and 20.

### **Rejection - 35 U.S.C. § 103**

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4 and 6-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Shaw et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,956,486 (Hickman et al.). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Independent claim 1 has been canceled and replaced with new claim 21. Also, independent claim 10 has been canceled and replaced with new claim 22. New claims 21 and 22 each recite an e-mail server which activates an annunciator if a text string received by the e-mail sever meets a predetermined criteria.

As discussed above, Shaw et al. does not teach or suggest an e-mail server which activates an annunciator in response to receiving an e-mail message meeting a predetermined criteria as recited in new claims 21 and 22.

Hickman et al. teaches a method for monitoring multiple e-mail systems by a process of polling and does not teach or suggest an e-mail server which activates an annunciator in response to receiving an e-mail message meeting a predetermined criteria. Accordingly, Hickman et al. does not make up for the deficiency of Shaw et al.

Applicant submits that the combination of Shaw et al. and Hickman et al. does not make new claims 21 and 22 obvious. Accordingly Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the §103 rejection of claims 1 and 10 as it may be applied to new claims 21 and 22.

Further, it is respectfully submitted that since independent claims 1 and 10 have been shown to be allowable, claims 3-4 and claims 8-9, dependent on new claim 21 and claims 11, 13 and 23-25, dependent on new claim 22 are allowable, at least by their dependency. Accordingly, for all the above reasons, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103 rejection of claims 3-4 and 6-14 as it may be applied to claims 3-4, 8, 9, 13 and new claims 23-25.

The Examiner also rejected claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Shaw et al. in view of Hickman et al. and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,442,589 (Takahashi et al.). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Claim 5 depends from new independent claim 21. As discussed above, neither Shaw et al. nor Hickman et al. teach or suggest an e-mail server which activates an annunciator in response to receiving an e-mail message meeting a predetermined criteria, as recited by new independent claim 21. .

Takahashi et al. discloses an electronic message call forwarding system and does not teach or suggest an e-mail server which activates an annunciator in response to receiving an e-mail message meeting a predetermined criteria, as recited in new claim 21. Accordingly, Takahashi et al. does not make up for the deficiency of the combination of Shaw et al. and Hickman et al.

In view of the dependency of claim on allowable claim 21, Applicant submits that the combination of Shaw et al., Hickman et al. and Takahashi et al. does not make claim 5 obvious. Accordingly Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the §103 rejection of claim 5.

### Conclusion

Insofar as the Examiner's objections and rejections have been fully addressed, the instant application, including claims 3-5, 8, 9, 13, 15-18 and 20-25, is in condition for allowance and Notice of Allowability of claims 3-5, 8, 9, 13, 15-18 and 20-25 is therefore earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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